

43 over Ivri, Dowell, and Pidwerbecki. Since all the pending claims are new, no appendix is provided to highlight claim amendments.

### Discussion

New independent Claim 40 is believed allowable over Ivri, Dowell, and Pidwerbecki (“cited references”) since the cited references do not disclose “electroforming an aperture plate made of palladium or a palladium alloy, the aperture plate having a front surface and a rear surface, the palladium or palladium alloy aperture plate being electroformed to form a plurality of tapered apertures extending from the rear surface to the front surface.” Neither Ivri nor Pidwerbecki disclose the step of electroforming a palladium or palladium alloy aperture plate as claimed. Pidwerbecki discloses electroforming nickel to form the orifice plate 203 (column 4, lines 1 – 2) rather than palladium or palladium alloy as claimed.

Pidwerbecki coats the electroformed nickel plate with palladium for corrosion resistance (column 4, lines 8 – 9), however, the orifice plate itself is clearly electroformed nickel. The palladium is merely applied after electroforming the nickel orifice plate. As such, the palladium coating does not constitute part of the orifice plate electroforming process, let alone not being part of an electroforming process “to form a plurality of tapered apertures extending from the rear surface to the front surface” as claimed.

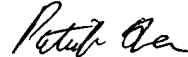
Dependent Claims 41 – 43 are believed allowable since they depend from allowable independent claim 40 and because they recite independently patentable features. For example, dependent Claim 42 recites that “the electroforming step is carried out with the aperture plate being palladium cobalt” which is not disclosed by the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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